

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, AG
SUBJ: MEDICAL COOPERATION

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF HEALTH OMAR BOUDJELLAB APRIL 17 I TOLD HIM THAT AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY WAS CONSIDERING SENDING TEAM HERE NEXT FALL TO GIVE BRIEF SEMINARS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELD OF CARDIOLOGY. MINISTER, WHO IS HIMSELF A CARDIOLOGIST, LOOKED PLEASED AND SAID ALGERIANS WOULD WANT GROUP TO BE THEIR GUESTS WHILE HERE. HE THEN SAID THAT ALGERIA HAD PROGRAMS OF MEDICAL COOPERATION WITH EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE US AND THAT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES WERE AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED.

2. SPECIFICALLY, MINISTER HAD IN MIND THREE TYPES OF COOPERATION. ONE WOULD BE FOR VISITS OF TYPE CARDIOLOGISTS PROPOSED TO MAKE. ALGERIANS WOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE THEM IN ANY AREA OF MEDICAL SPECIALIZATION. SECOND WAS FOR AMERICAN TEAMS TO COME FOR LONGER STAY, SAY TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS, DURING WHICH THEY WOULD WORK WITH ALGERIANS OF SOME SPECIALTY, DEMONSTRATING NEW TECHNIQUES OR NEW IDEAS BY ACTUALLY PRACTICING IN CLINICS OR HOSPITALS. THIRD TYPE WAS TO ARRANGE VISITS TO US BY ALGERIAN SPECIALISTS FOR BRIEF RECYCLING OR TRAINING SESSIONS. ALGERIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF THEIR DOCTORS BUT WOULD HOPE THAT INSTITUTIONS IN THE US WOULD PICK

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UP TAB FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND MINIMAL LIVING EXPENSES.

HE HAD IN MIND UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS WHICH HE ASSUMED HAD
LIVING FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND HE WAS THINKING
IN TERMS OF THREE OR FOUR WEEK STAYS BY THE ALGERIANS.

3. I PROMISED REPORT HIS SUGGESTIONS TO
WASHINGTON. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED IN INFORMAL
CORRESPONDENCE WITH AFN AND CU, MEDICAL COOPERATION
WITH ALGERIA IS PROMISING FIELD, PROVIDING WE HAVE
RESOURCES AND INTEREST. MEDICAL PROFESSION
IN THIS COUNTRY IS VERY EAGER LEARN MORE ABOUT
AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTS AND TECHNIQUES AND MINISTER
HIMSELF SAID EVERYONE REALIZED WE WERE NUMBER ONE
IN TERMS OF MEDICINE. BELIEVE WE CAN DO USEFUL WORK
IN THIS FIELD AT VERY LIMITED EXPENSE TO USG. IT
WOULD HAVE LONG-LASTING FAVORABLE IMPACT ON OUR
RELATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT
FOR EXCHANGE EFFORTS OF TYPE PROPOSED BY MINISTER AND
REQUEST PROMPT REPLY AS TO POSSIBILITIES.

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